AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 10, 13, 14, 23, and 25, as indicated below.

A complete listing of all claims is presented below with insertions underlined (e.g., insertion), and deletions struckthrough or in double brackets (e.g., ~~deletion~~ or [[deletion]]):

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method of selecting user-preferred programs from a plurality of programs, comprising:

accessing a first database that includes program information describing the plurality of programs through program attributes;

obtaining a first set of user-defined criteria for identifying preferred program attributes from user input, the preferred program attributes including attributes which a program must have in order to be of interest to the user; [[and]]

obtaining a second set of user-defined criteria for identifying non-preferred program attributes from user input, the non-preferred program attributes including attributes which a program must not have in order to be of interest to the user; and

sorting through the first database using the first set of user-defined criteria and the second set of user-defined criteria to select programs, the program attributes of each selected program having the preferred program attributes and not having the non-preferred program attributes.

2.   (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 1, further comprising presenting the selected programs to the user for selection.

3.   (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 1, further comprising recording at least one of the selected programs for deferred selection by the user.

4.   (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 1, further comprising receiving a user input to modify the user-defined criteria.

5.   (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 1, wherein said sorting involves applying a logical AND and a logical NOT to the program attributes.

6.   (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 1, wherein the program attributes of each program comprise at least one program attribute from a group that includes channel of the program, actor of the program, director of the program, title of the program, genre of the program, language of the program, critical rating of the program, callsign of the program,

play content of the program, maturity rating of the program, multi-part format of the program, and seasonal content of the program.

7.   (Original)   The method of Claim 1, further comprising repeatedly sorting through the first database.

8.   (Original)   The method of Claim 1, further comprising updating the program information of the first database.

9.   (Original)   The method of Claim 8, further comprising repeatedly sorting through the first database including updated program information.

10.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim 1, wherein [[the]]at least one of the first set of user-defined criteria or the second set of user-defined criteria [[are]]is obtained from a second database.

11.   (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 10, wherein the second database stores multiple sets of user-defined criteria for multiple users.

12.   (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 10, wherein the second database stores multiple sets of user-defined criteria for a user.

13.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim 1, wherein [[the]]at least one of the first set of user-defined criteria or the second set of user-defined criteria [[are]]is obtained from an input device under control of the user.

14.   (Currently Amended)   An audio/video apparatus for selecting programs from a plurality of programs, comprising:

a memory to receive and to store program information describing the plurality of programs through program attributes;

a source of user-defined criteria, wherein the user-defined criteria comprise:

a first set of user-defined criteria which identify preferred program attributes from user input, the preferred program attributes including attributes which a program must have in order to be of interest to a user; and

a second set of user-defined criteria which identify non-preferred program attributes from user input, the non-preferred program attributes including attributes which a program must not have in order to be of interest to the user;
and

a preference module configured to sort through the program information to select programs, the program attributes of each selected program having the preferred program attributes and not having the non-preferred program attributes.

15.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of Claim 14, further comprising a graphical user interface for presenting the elected programs to a user for further selection by the user.

16.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the graphical user interface is configured to receive a user input to modify the user-defined criteria.

17.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the graphical user interface is configured to receive a user input to further select at least one of the selected programs.

18.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of Claim 14, further comprising a storage device configured to record at least one of the selected programs for deferred selection by a user.

19.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the preference module is configured to further select at least one of the selected programs for automatic recording and to initiate automatic recording of the program selected by the preference module.

20.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the preference module is configured to further select at least one of the selected programs for recording and to initiate recording of the program selected by the preference module in response to user input.

21.   (Original)   The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein the preference module applies a logical AND and a logical NOT to the program attributes.

22.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein the program attributes of each program comprise at least one program attribute from a group including channel of the program, actor of the program, director of the program, title of the program, genre of the program, language of the program, critical rating of the program, callsign of the program, play content of the program, maturity rating of the program, multi-part format of the program, and seasonal content of the program.

23.   (Currently Amended)   A method of selecting programs from a plurality of programs, comprising:

accessing a first database that includes program information describing the plurality of programs through program attributes;

obtaining a first set of user-defined criteria for identifying preferred program attributes [[and]]from user input, the preferred program attributes including attributes which a program must have in order to be of interest to a user;

obtaining a second set of user-defined criteria for identifying non-preferred program attributes from user input, the non-preferred program attributes including attributes which a program must not have in order to be of interest to the user;

comparing the program attributes of a program of the plurality of programs to the preferred program attributes;

comparing the program attributes of the program of the plurality of programs to the non-preferred program attributes; and

selecting the program of the plurality of programs if the program attributes of the program include the preferred program attributes and do not include the non-preferred program attributes.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method of selecting programs from a plurality of programs, comprising:

accessing a first database that includes program information regarding the plurality of programs, each program having one or more program attributes which describe the program;

obtaining a first set of user-defined criteria from user input which define a-user's viewing-interests, the viewing-interests-expressed-as at least one required program attribute and at least one barred program attribute, the required program attribute corresponding to an attribute which a program must have in order that the program be of interest to the user[[, the]];

obtaining a second set of user-defined criteria from user input which define at least one barred program attribute corresponding to an attribute which a program must not have in order that the program be of interest to the user; and

identifying a selected set of programs of interest to the user, each program of the selected set of programs having the required program attribute and not having the barred program attribute.